

The People.

VOL. IX.—NO. 43.

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NEW YORK, SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 1900

PRICE 2 CENTS.

SECOND EDITORIAL

SYRACUSE A BELATED NEW YORK.

By DANIEL DE LEON

Careful readers of THE PEOPLE will have learned from last week's official report from Syracuse, N.Y., that Erasmus Pellenz was expelled from the Section on the 26th of last month, promptly upon his acceptance of a political job from Mayor MacGuire.

Under ordinary circumstances, and in ordinary times, this incident would not deserve much space. The Socialist Labor Party cannot guarantee the purity of each individual member. No organization can. The purity of an organization depends upon its collective action. Only if it condones corruption is it unworthy. The prompt expulsion of Pellenz, with the brand of traitor on his brow; mention of the fact in contrast with the conduct of both the pure and simple unions and the San Francisco Kangaroo organization that applaud the corruption of their organizations;—that would, under ordinary circumstances and ordinary times, have sufficed. But these are neither ordinary times nor circumstances.

The appointment of Pellenz by a Democratic Mayor to a political job is the last sizzle in a fizzled conspiracy of the Democratic party of this State to smash up the Socialist Labor Party.

Readers of THE PEOPLE are aware how the Democratic press howled with rage two years ago at the fact that its gubernatorial candidate was defeated while the S.L.P. held the balance of power; they are also aware of how Tammany politicians and under-strappers schemed to pull the fangs out of the S.L.P. in this city; and they surely remember the memorable midnight assault upon the Party premises on July 10, led by Tammany conscripts. Those incidents have been given in full in Henry Austin's article, "The Socialist Thorn in Tammany's Side," and subsequent events have recorded the dismal failure of the scheme in this city.¹ Now, then, what

¹ ["The Socialistic Thorn in Tammany Side," by Henry Austin, N.Y. *Independent*, August 1900.]

Tammany sought to accomplish for the benefit of the Democratic party in the State, and failed, Mayor MacGuire has now tried his hand in for his private benefit in particular; and his party's interest in general,—and will fail equally, has already failed in.

Village-like as Syracuse is, things leak out easily there. It has been ascertained that MacGuire has the gubernatorial bee in his bonnet; that he was disappointed, and said so, at the failure of “the split in the Socialist Labor Party” to materialize, as was expected; and that, thinking something could still be done, he gave Pellenz a job for the purpose of “removing the Socialist rallying point” in Syracuse. In other words, the greater conspiracy having failed, MacGuire started a little one on his own hook.

With all their sharpness in some things, the politicians are exceptionally dull and gullible. The Labor Fakir, with no following, regularly takes them in. Mayor MacGuire, the dupe of the Labor Fakir, has not penetration enough to know that distinction bestowed by a politician upon a Socialist has for its only effect the cauterizing of that Socialist from the ranks. So far from MacGuire having removed a rallying point for the Socialists of Syracuse, and thereby shattered the Party there, his bribe has solidified the ranks in a double sense: first in the sense that the organization has been spurred to redoubled activity by this additional homage to the “dangerous power” of the S.L.P.; and, secondly, by being rid of the alleged “rallying point,” a man who never stood straight, and was thoroughly suspected by the Party.

The S.L.P. cannot be bribed with either money or jobs. The cause it pursues is too exalted, and the material interests it will itself secure for the proletariat too vast to render it liable to sops. Croker and Keenan in New York but light the way whither MacGuire in Syracuse will travel. Absolutely proof against assaults of all nature, the S.L.P. will dig the grave of and successively bury every capitalist party in the land.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

Uploaded May 2005